

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEIDATE 2557

S E C R E T NIAMEY 0042

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, US, NG

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REF: A) STATE 001375; B) STATE 001376; C) NIAMEY 0028

1. I DELIVERED PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON ANGOLAN
SITUATION TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE WHO SAW ME FOR ABOUT
45 MINUTES MORNING JANUARY 5.

2. AFTER READING LETTER, KOUNTCHE WENT OVER IT IN
SOME DETAIL WITH ME, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) NIGER'S POSITION WAS CLEAR CUT AND ALONG SAME
LINES AS THAT OF US, I.E. WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN
INTERVENTION, NON-RECOGNITION OF ANY FACTION IN
DISPUTE, SUPPORT OF AOU INITIATIVE TO BRING ABOUT
NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL
GOVERNMENT.

B) NIGER HAD BEEN UNDER CONSIDERABLE
PRESSURE FROM "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS
TO RECOGNIZE MPLA BUT REFUSED TO DO SO ON GROUNDS THAT
MPLA WAS NOT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND RECOGNITION
WOULD ENGOURAGE MPLA INTRANSIGENCE AND POSSIBLE
BALKANIZATION.

C) HE WAS VERY SCEPTICAL ABOUT FORTHCOMING
OAU MEETING. NIGER HAD OPPOSED SUMMIT SCHEDULED
IMMEDIATELY AFTER FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING SINCE
LATTER WOULD PROBABLY REACH IMPASSE UNLESS MPLA

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AGREED TO MEET WITH FNLA AND UNITA WHICH HE DOUBTED.

CHIEFS OF STATE NEEDED MORE TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT IN EVENT OF CONFRONTATION WHICH SEEMED LIKELY BETWEEN MODERATES, INCLUDING NIGER AND THOSE WHO HAD RECOGNIZED MPLA. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF NIGERIA ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAD RECOGNIZED MPLA HAD IDEOLOGICAL OR OTHER TIES WITH USSR. HE FELT NIGERIA'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA HAD BEEN GREAT MISTAKE AND DISSERVICE TO CAUSE OF AFRICAN UNITY AND HE SAID HE HAD SO TOLD NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR. IN ANY EVENT, NIGER'S FOREIGN MINISTER DJERMAKOYE WAS LEAVING AFTERNOON JANUARY 5 FOR ADDIS WITH FIRM INSTRUCTIONS ALONG LINES SET FORTH IN PARA 2(A) ABOVE.

D) KOUNTCHE WAS NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN HE WOULD GO TO OAU MEETING AND HE DOUBTED MANY OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD ATTEND. HE SAID AT RECENT CILSS MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT SENEGAL HAD URGED HIM AND OULD DADDAD TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT BUT HE WAS NOT FULLY PERSUADED.

E) IF OAU WAS NOT ABLE TO SOLVE PROBLEM, THEN ANGOLA CONFLICT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD TO BE RESOLVED BY US AND USSR. KOUNTCHE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT US REMAIN INVOLVED IN ANGOLA UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED. HE ADDED THAT IF US WALKED AWAY FROM PROBLEM, CHINESE WERE BOUND TO COME IN.

F) PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN ANGOLA WAS EMBARRASSING TO MODERATES OPPOSED TO MPLA RECOGNITION, BUT KOUNTCHE SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND WHY SOUTH AFRICANS FELT THREATENED AND HAD ACTED TO PROTECT THEIR BORDERS AND SECURITY INTERESTS. AT SAME TIME SOME TYPE OF SOUTH AFRICAN WITHDRAWAL OR COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW WOULD STRENGTHEN POSITION OF MODERATES AT OAU.

G) HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IF ANGOLAN FACTIONS COULD COME TO TERMS WITH EACH OTHER, THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF SOMEONE OTHER THAN LEADERS OF EXISTING FACTIONS WHO COULD NOT WORK TOGETHER.

3. KOUNTCHE CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT THAT HE WELCOMED PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND WOULD BE REPLYING
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